the intention of my Government that the entire mineral sand industry should as far as possible be owned and managed by the State. The existing private mineral concerns will on this basis be progressively brought under State ownership. Arrangements are well under way for the establishment of the Monazite Factory at Alwaye, which is jointly owned by my Government and the Central Government. The shyness of private capital is proving a great handicap to initiation of new industries. My Government are therefore making substantial contributions to the share-capital of deserving private industrial concerns. They are also providing financial accommodation by way of loans, wherever necessary and possible, to private concerns engaged in the production of essential commodities.

12. The Cottage Industries Committee constituted to report upon the possibilities of developing the cottage industries of the State has forwarded an interim report. My Government are examining the committee's proposals. It is their intention to implement the proposals as far as practicable and with the least possible delay. My Government are also paying due attention to the development of industrial research. Shark Liver Oil is to be produced on a commercial scale and a Board of Management has been constituted. Research in Tapioca is to be developed—in stations to be opened in Thiruvalla and Mulloorkara. The distillation of essential oils from indigenous raw materials like lemon grass, for which there is great demand in the world market, has already engaged my Government's attention. A pilot plant will soon be installed for operation of a scheme which they have under consideration.

ELECTRICITY

13. The supply of cheap power is one of the essential conditions for the industrial development of any country. My Government have under execution three major hydro-electrtc schemes—the Pallivasal hydro-electric project, the Sengulam hydro-electric project, and the Poringalkuthu hydro-electric project. Progress on all these works is being steadily maintained. A capital expenditure of Rs. 175 lakhs is anticipated on the entire power system during the current year and the total capital outlay on the works by the end of the year will be about Rs. 970 lakhs.

COMMUNICATIONS

14. My Government have been making liberal grants for the improvement of the State's road system. The main highways are being provided with special dustless surfacing. This will be facilitated by contributions from the Municipalities and village organisations, the State Transport Department, and private bus and lorry operators.

15. The village and ryots roads which have come into existence in a haphazard manner will be brought into a well-planned development scheme. This scheme will be worked out on the basis of two five-year plans. A Village Road Development Fund has been created for this purpose.

16. A new major arterial road connecting Kumili with Devicolam will be opened for vehicular traffic in the ensuing year. Most of the work has already been completed. The road traverses the extensive cardamom areas of the High Range and opens up a vast area of cultivable land. It links up the two Hill stations of Munnar and Peermade, and is of the greatest importance for the economic development of the hitherto inaccessible regions of the High Range.

LAND POLICY

17. My Government have had under consideration for some time past the question of re-orientating the land policy of the State and the system of land tenures.

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So ar as public lands are concerned, the area available is so limited that the problem in the State is not so much one of inducing people to settle down on them as of giving enough land to every person who asks for it. Lands already in the hands of private individuals and families are subject to constant sub-division and fragmentation owing to the normal operation of the laws of succession and partition governing the major communities. In the result, small holdings have become the predominant feature of land distribution in the State. Transactions in respect of lands and of rights over lands are numerous. Any restrictions on alienation will be regarded as a vexatious interference with the right of property.

18. The recommendations made by the Land Policy Committee are already engaging my Government's serious attention. It is my Government's desire in dealing with the Committee's recommendations, to simplify as far as possible the complex system of land tenures, to subject all lands to the basic tax system, and in all respects possible to bring into existence optimum conditions for the utilisation of lands and for increase of agricultural production. Government propose to introduce the necessary legislation to achieve this object.

LABOUR

19. My Government have always been keenly alive to the supreme importance of having a happy and contented labour population for the welfare and prosperity of the country. The Payment of Wages Act has been extended to the plantations in the State. The evils of payment of wages through middlemen and of annual settlement which are traditionally associated with the Plantation Industry will disappear as the result of the extension of the Act to the plantations. My Government have appointed a committee to recommend minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act for the Coir Industry. They propose to appoint similar committees for other industries also. Government will introduce minimum wages in agriculture at an early date. With the extension of the Industrial Disputes Act, and the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act to the State, an efficient machinery has been established for settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation or adjudication. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a general improvement in the income of the workers and the amenities enjoyed by them, as the result of the operation of these measures.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL AID

20. The anti-malaria campaign will be immediately extended on a State-wide basis. The B. C. G. campaign started in 1949 continues to make steady progress. Preliminary arrangements for the establishment of a Tuberculosis clinic in Trivandrum have been almost completed. A Public Health Engineering Section has been opened in the Public Health Department. It is my Government's intention that this Section should devote itself to all environmental hygiene programmes such as rural water supplies, waste and excreta disposal, housing, etc. My Government also intend to inaugurate in the near future a comprehensive scheme for improving rural water supplies.

21. There are at present 227 medical institutions of all grades under the Medical Department. A committee has been appointed to examine the question of the re-allocation of these institutions to suit them to local needs. A new hospital for women and children will soon be opened at Alleppey, in addition to the existing District Hospital. Liberal provision has been made in the Budget of the ensuing year for provision of the necessary equipment and staff to all hospitals and dispensaries. Works on the Medical College at Trivandrum are being completed according to schedule, and it is expected that the College can be opened in the next academic year.

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